

CLAIMS

It is claimed:

1. An environmentally resistant lamp system comprising:
 - a fixture comprising
 - a housing providing mechanical support
 - a socket attached to the housing comprising an electrical contact electrically connected to a power supply,
 - a lamp comprising
 - a single-walled envelope
 - a base attached to the envelope
 - a vaporizable material sealed within the envelope
 - at least one electrode disposed within the envelope
 - an electrical contact attached to the base, electrically connected to the electrode

whereby the lamp is mechanically supported by the socket and the electrical contact of the lamp electrically connects to the electrical contact of the socket,

- a cover comprising
 - a material resistant to at least one of dripping liquid, light splashing of liquid, and condensation
 - a first section at least partially surrounding the base
 - a second section at least partially surrounding the socket

an inner surface at least partially surrounding the electrical contact of the socket and the electrical contact of the base

an outer surface shielding the electrical contact of the socket and the electrical contact of the base.

2. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the power supply is mounted to the housing.
3. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the power supply is mounted inside the base.
4. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the electric discharge lamp is a germicidal lamp.
5. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the fixture further comprises a lamp holder attached to the flange for supporting the base of the tube.
6. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the first section at least partially abuts the base and the second section at least partially abuts the socket.
7. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the first section at least partially interlocks with the base and the second section at least partially interlocks with the socket.
8. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the first section at least partially seals to the base and the second section at least partially seals to the socket.

9. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the first section at least partially interlocks with the base and the second section at least partially interlocks with the flange.
10. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the first section at least partially seals to the base and the second section at least partially seals the flange.
11. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the liquid is water.
12. The environmentally resistant lamp system of claim 1, wherein the power supply is mounted to the housing, the first section at least partially abuts the base, the second section at least partially abuts the socket, the liquid is water, and the tube emits ultraviolet light.
13. An environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system comprising:
 - a material resistant to at least one of dripping liquid, light splashing of liquid, light spraying of liquid and condensation
 - a first section comprising
 - an opening adapted to receive a base of an electric discharge lamp
 - an inner surface adapted dimensionally to encompass and be at least slightly larger than an outer cross section of the base when the first section receives the base
 - a second section comprising
 - an opening adapted to receive a socket of an electric discharge lamp fixture
 - an inner surface adapted dimensionally to encompass and be at least slightly larger than an outer cross section of the socket when the second section receives the socket

wherein the cover is adapted to, when the cover receives the base and the socket, shield and at least partially enclose both an electrical contact of the base and an electrical contact of the socket from at least one of dripping liquid, light splashing of liquid, light spraying of liquid and condensation.

14. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein a cross section of the inner surface of the first section is further adapted to fit with an outer cross section of the base, and a cross section of the inner surface of the second section is further adapted to fit with at least part of an outer cross section of the socket.

15. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein a cross section of the inner surface of the first section is further adapted to interlock with an outer cross section of the base, and a cross section of the inner surface of the second section is further adapted to interlock with at least part of an outer cross section of the socket.

16. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein a cross section of the inner surface of the first section is further adapted to seal to an outer cross section of the base, and a cross section of the inner surface of the second section is further adapted to seal to at least part of an outer cross section of the socket.

17. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein a cross section of the inner surface of the first section is further adapted to interlock with an outer cross section of the base, and a cross section of the opening of the second section is further adapted to interlock with a surface of a housing of the fixture.

18. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein a cross section of the inner surface of the first section is further adapted to seal to an outer cross section of the base, and a cross section of the opening of the second section is further adapted to seal to a surface of the housing of the fixture.

19. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein the liquid is water.

20. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein the electric discharge lamp is a germicidal lamp.

21. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein a cross section of the inner surface of the first section is adapted to at least partially interlock with an outer cross section of the base, a cross section of the inner surface of the second section is adapted to at least partially interlock with a surface of the housing of the fixture, the liquid is a mixture of water and oil, and the lamp is a germicidal lamp.

22. The environmentally resistant cover for a germicidal system of claim 13, wherein the liquid is a mixture of water and oil, and the electric discharge lamp is a germicidal lamp, the inner surface of the opening of the second section is further adapted dimensionally to encompass and be at least slightly larger than an outer cross section of the socket when the second section receives the socket, wherein the socket is selected from the group consisting of a bi-pin, a single pin, a R17d, a medium bi-pin, a four pin, a 2Gx13, a recessed double contact, a G-23, and a 2G-11.

23. A process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system comprising positioning a first section of a cover at least partially around a base of an electric discharge lamp,

positioning a second section of the cover at least partially around a socket of a fixture, positioning an electrical contact of the base in electrical contact with an electrical contact of the socket,

whereby the cover shields both the electrical contact of the base and the electrical contact of the socket from at least one of dripping liquid, light splashing liquid, and condensation.

24. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, further comprising positioning the base to engage the socket for mechanical support.

25. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, wherein the cover at least partially surrounds the base and the cover at least partially surrounds the socket.

26. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, wherein the cover at least partially abuts the base and the cover at least partially abuts the socket.

27. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, wherein the cover at least partially interlocks with the base and the cover at least partially interlocks with the socket.

28. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, wherein the cover at least partially seals to the base and the cover at least partially seals to the socket.

29. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, further comprising

positioning the base to engage a lamp holder, attached to the fixture, for mechanical support,

wherein the cover at least partially abuts the base, the cover at least partially abuts the socket.

30. The process for providing environmental resistance to a germicidal system of claim 23, further comprising

positioning the base to engage a lamp holder, attached to the fixture, for mechanical support,

wherein the cover at least partially abuts the base, the cover at least partially abuts the socket, the electric discharge lamp is an germicidal lamp.